

This is an epidemic that needs to be resolved. Recent reports indicate that nearly 22 veterans commit suicide every day. In 2012, more than 349 Active-Duty service men and women across the four branches took their own lives. That is an average of 1 every 25 hours, the highest suicide rate ever in the DoD.

It is not just about resources. In fact, having an adequate number of mental health professionals is just one component of ensuring access to care.

Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta testified in a hearing the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense held last year that he was unsatisfied with the Pentagon's current approach to combating military suicides and admitted that the DoD needs to review its procedures for handling mental health cases. Secretary Panetta said that there are still huge gaps in the way a mental health diagnosis is determined. Furthermore, Secretary Panetta acknowledged that the greatest obstacle to service men and women receiving necessary mental health treatment is the stigma that continues to be associated with seeking help for psychological injuries.

Throughout Maryland, I hear from service men and women who believe that seeking mental health services will hurt their military careers. We must overcome these real and perceived barriers to care by changing the policies that govern how we provide mental health care to our military members. Those who are hurting in silence will seek treatment only when they can truly speak freely and off the record. As more and more of these individuals go untreated, we will continue to see a rise in suicides and other tragic incidents among our military members and veterans.

Even as we wind down our combat operations in Afghanistan over the next year, I fear that we will continue to see an increasing number of our military members and veterans needing mental health care in the near future.

Yet the DoD now is facing looming furloughs and unnecessary funding cuts, which could force the DoD to lose many of the highly valued mental health and behavioral professionals who were hired to help treat soaring rates of PTSD. Recently, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, stated his concerns over the DoD's long-term capability to provide mental health care to the force, to counter the effects of PTSD. More than one-half of the mental health specialists serving the military are civilians, and they have options to seek employment elsewhere. I worry about sustaining this valuable workforce under constant threat from sequesters.

Mr. President, we need to ensure that we have the personnel, resources, and policies in place to guarantee access to quality mental health care for our men and women in uniform, our veterans,

and their families. Active-Duty service men and women especially need access to such care without fear of being stigmatized of suffering career-damaging consequences. Providing such care isn't just a good idea to maintain the well-being and readiness of our troops; it is our solemn moral obligation to those who have sacrificed so much for our great Nation. It is important for us to remember that—especially during Mental Health Awareness Month and as we approach Memorial Day.

REMEMBERING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ARDEN HASSENGER

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember an Oregon hero. CMSgt Arden Hassenger was a 29-year-old from Lebanon, OR, when he and five other airmen set out on Christmas Eve 1965 on a reconnaissance trip over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Tragically, they never returned. What was even more tragic for Hassenger's friends and family, though, was that the plane could not be found. His wife and children lived in uncertainty for decades, not knowing whether Arden had been killed that day or whether he was alive in Laos.

Finally, the crash site was located, and in 2010 and 2011, remains of the missing men were at last recovered. Last year, they were buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery. This Sunday, Arden's ultimate sacrifice for our Nation will be honored once again at the Vietnam Memorial. The cross next to his name, which signified his status as missing in action, will be changed to a diamond, representing that he has returned home to rest after these many years. I hope that this final act of remembrance will help to bring closure to his family and all who loved him.

We honor Chief Master Sergeant Hassenger, and we thank him and his family for the tremendous sacrifice and service they have given to our Nation.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT M. BROWN

Mr. KAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fallen airman who died in military service to this country. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Robert M. Brown, of Portsmouth, VA, was lost on Nov. 7, 1972 in his F-111 near Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam. The remains of Lieutenant Colonel Brown were located in North Vietnam and returned June 7, 1995. He was finally identified on December 14, 2011 and accounted for on February 25, 2012.

Robert Brown graduated from the US Naval Academy in the top 30 percent of his class and was given his choice of branch of service. He chose the US Air Force and trained as a pilot while adding to his bachelor of military science degree with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Michigan. Before his first deployment he was assigned to NASA and worked on the

Mercury and Gemini Space programs. During his first tour of duty in Southeast Asia in 1966, Major Brown compiled an impressive record of 299 combat missions while flying the F100 Super Sabre. Upon returning to the United States, he went to work in Research and Development for America's Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems program as a project scientist. In 1972 he returned to Vietnam for his second tour as a highly decorated fighter pilot to fly the most advanced combat aircraft of its time—the F111A Aardvark.

On November 7, 1972, the F111A crew, call sign "Whaler 57" departed Takhli Airbase, Thailand on a single aircraft strike mission. Its target was the Luat Son Highway ferry and ford nestled in a populated and forested area where the highway crossed over the river approximately 24 miles south of the major port city of Dong Hoi. After reporting that its mission was proceeding normally, radio contact was lost after 0400 and by 0500 a 2 week long search and rescue effort was commenced.

Efforts to recover "Whaler 57" were unsuccessful, but the remains of Lieutenant Colonel Brown have finally been found and identified. Lieutenant Colonel Brown is survived by his sister Gail and his children Beverly, Margie, and Bruce. Today, I ask all Members of the Senate to join me as we honor the life and legacy Lt. Col. Robert M. Brown, and the other Americans in our Armed Forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. There are no words fitting enough to fully express our thanks.

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Winston-Salem, NC, which I proudly call home. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the consolidation of the towns Winston and Salem. Before their consolidation, each town had a long and prosperous history. Salem was established in 1766 by members the Moravian Church. Today, Old Salem Museum and Garden still shows life as it was 200 years ago. It features the iconic 12-foot tall coffee pot first erected by Julius E. Mickey to attract customers to his tin shop in 1858 and the Moravian Easter Sunrise Service in God's Acres cemetery has been a yearly tradition since its inception in 1773. The town steadily increased in influence and commerce activity and was incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1857.

In 1849, Salem sold the land to its north to Forsyth County to serve as the county seat. The land was named Winston, in honor of local Revolutionary War hero, Joseph Winston. Ten years later the town was incorporated. In the 1870s the town was connected to the North Carolina Railroad. This gave way to many factories; Reynolds and Hanes being the largest. Their healthy competition helped Winston grow remarkably over the next three decades.

The two towns worked closely together on many issues, and began to have a unified identity. Winston and Salem's citizens then voted to consolidate the two towns into the city of Winston-Salem. This officially took effect May 9, 1913, and Oscar B. Eaton was elected the first mayor of the newly formed city. After consolidation, Winston-Salem was one of North Carolina's foremost cities throughout the 1920s due to vastly successful R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Hanes Knitting, Hanes Dye and Finishing, and Piedmont Airlines.

The Winston-Salem Arts Council was founded in 1949, and was the first of its kind in the Nation. It has led to the rich arts culture that Winston-Salem enjoys today. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts was established as the first of its kind State-supported arts college in the United States. Through the years the university has equipped thousands of men and women developing the arts in the program to incorporate dance, design and production, drama, film making, and music. Today, Winston-Salem is known as "The City of the Arts and Innovation."

As the economy changed in the 1900s, the leaders of the city successfully worked to make Winston-Salem prosperous in the new age by establishing the Piedmont Triad Research Park, which recently became the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. This equipped the city with technological and medical jobs that has grown to be the leading of industry in Winston-Salem today.

Winston-Salem has received many accolades for its friendly business environment, low cost of living, lively downtown district, and many other aspects. In Winston-Salem, May 9-12 has been set aside to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their consolidation. So I join my fellow Winston-Salem citizens and leaders in celebration of this historic anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING STEPTOE & JOHNSON

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to highlight a West Virginia business on its 100th year in the Mountain State—Steptoe & Johnson, a renowned and nationally respected energy law firm.

From yesterday's humble beginnings, Steptoe & Johnson now has more than 270 attorneys and a staff of 570 people, including more than 220 real estate professionals, working in 14 offices in 6 states—my home State of West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio and Colorado.

Over the past century of American history—through war and peace, through recessions and abundance, through tragedy and triumph—Steptoe & Johnson has persevered and prospered.

I wonder if Philip P. Steptoe and Colonel Louis A. Johnson looked 100 years into the future when they hung out their shingle and established their law firm in Clarksburg, WV, in 1913. I wonder if they ever dreamed Steptoe & Johnson would grow so large or be so influential.

They probably did, because they began their practice in Clarksburg, a perfectly centralized location with a diverse economy. That decision alone helped introduce their company to various service-related industries and public utilities.

Over the next century, Steptoe & Johnson would grow and expand numerous times, opening six offices across West Virginia, including Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Martinsburg, Morgantown, and Wheeling. That solid foundation helped propel them into five other States.

Steptoe & Johnson's success story is similar to that of many of our Nation's great entrepreneurs: two men with one vision began this American-made story of service and perseverance. Today, more than 800 individuals join together on a daily basis to carry out the company's vision and mission, by offering strong representation and quality service to its clientele.

But for Steptoe & Johnson, there is no end in mind—only the future.●

REMEMBERING EVAN DUBE

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, Senator AYOTTE and I wish to commemorate the life of Evan Dube, a young man from Plaistow, NH, whose life was tragically cut short on May 19, 2012. Evan's spirit touched the lives of many in his community, and his legacy as a kind and loving friend will not be forgotten.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, Evan, a graduate of Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH, was a beloved member of both the school's community and the greater Plaistow community. Evan was involved in the school's theatre program, competed on the Model United Nations team, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Upon graduating from Timberlane, Evan began his freshman year at Bates College in Lewiston, ME, where he was studying classical and medieval studies. At the time of his passing, Evan was participating in an archaeological research project in Scotland.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. While Evan earned great success in his academic pursuits, his most profound impact was on the lives of those with whom he interacted. Evan's thoughtful compassion touched the lives of hundreds of acquaintances, friends, and family members. This was evidenced in part by a ceremony held to honor Evan's life at the Timberlane Regional High School Performing Arts Center where nearly 900 individuals honored his memory and celebrated the life that he lived with extraordinary attention to the thoughts and feelings of those around him.

Ms. AYOTTE. In the wake of Evan's passing, students and faculty of Timberlane Regional High School gave great thought to the true meaning of compassion. To honor Evan's life and the many lessons he shared, members of the community have worked to incorporate Evan's values of compassion and kindness into their daily lives. We would all be well served by emulating such behavior.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. We express our true sorrow at the loss of such an admirable, accomplished, and compassionate young man. We would also like to recognize and offer our sympathies to Evan's family, including his mother Eileen, his father John, and his twin brother Conor. We are confident that Evan's friends and family have great pride when they remember the impact that his short life had on so many individuals.

Ms. AYOTTE. We recognize Evan Dube for his well-lived life that was full of compassion, kindness and care. Those who knew Evan are fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow with and learn from him, and are certainly better off by having had their lives touched by such an inspirational person.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER JONATHAN

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a remarkable leader, Father Jonathan DeFelice, who will retire as the President of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, this June.

Father Jonathan, as he is known to his beloved students and college community, has devoted his adult personal and professional life to Saint Anselm College. He lives and works at Saint Anselm in community with his fellow monks of the Order of Saint Benedict, who founded the college in 1889. Under his leadership, Saint Anselm College has become a nationally ranked liberal arts college and model for other institutions of higher education on ways to expand civic engagement and community service among all members of the campus community.

Originally a native of Bristol, RI, Father Jonathan attended Portsmouth Abbey School for high school and completed his undergraduate career at Saint Anselm in 1969. He joined the Order of Saint Benedict in 1973, and 1 later was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. Shortly thereafter, Father Jonathan returned to Saint Anselm, where he served in the administration, holding a variety of positions, including dean of freshman students, assistant to the academic dean and dean of students. The capstone of his years of work for his alma mater was his appointment as its president 24 years ago.

Father Jonathan believes that student development requires pursuing both academics and extracurricular activities. Building on that philosophy, he helped oversee the creation of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, established at Saint Anselm College to